

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
JCS
SECDEF
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017906

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CG, BE, FR, US

SUBJECT:CONSULTATIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TO ZAIRE

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 00167 (B) PARIS 00845
(C) STATE 008612

SUMMARY: BOTH DEPARTMENT AND DOD CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO
FOLLOW-UP ON CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS AND PARIS RE
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE (REFS A AND B). DISCUSSIONS
BY CHIEF, ZAMISH WITH BELGIAN AND FRENCH COUNTERPARTS
WILL: PROVIDE ADDED DEPTH TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF BELGIAN
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AND FRENCH PROGRAMS AND RELATED EXPERIENCE; IDENTIFY
SURVEYS, DATA, OR OTHER INFORMATION THAT CAN BE OF
ASSISTANCE IN OUR PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE MANPOWER, TRAINING
AND LOGISTICS SURVEY; AND POSSIBLY STIMULATE NEW INITIATIVES
BY IN-COUNTRY BELGIAN/FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES.
AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL CONTACTS WILL RE-ENFORCE OUR CONTINUING
INTEREST IN THIS MATTER TO BELGIANS AND FRENCH LOCALLY AS

WELL AS IN BRUSSELS AND PARIS.

1. CHIEF, ZAMISH SHOULD ARRANGE SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH COLONEL BLEUS, CHIEF OF BELGIAN MILITARY MISSION AND

COLONEL GRAS, SENIOR FRENCH OFFICER IN ZAIRE, AS FOLLOW-UP TO RECENT CONSULTATIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE BY JOINT STATE/DEFENSE TEAM (REFTELS). PRESUMABLY BOTH BELGIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALERTED THESE INDIVIDUALS AS TO SUCH MEETING AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO BE COOPERATIVE. MEETINGS WOULD MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF EFFORTS TO COORDINATE OUR PROGRAMS AND WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF ASSISTING IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR OUR PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE MANPOWER, TRAINING AND LOGISTICS SURVEY.

2. OBJECTIVES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH COLONELS BLEUS AND GRAS ARE TO IDENTIFY OR CLARIFY TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE:

-- A. DATA ON CURRENT OR PROJECTED MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SUCH AS:

-- -- IN COUNTRY TRAINING: SCOPE OF TRAINING AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY LOCATION/SERVICE/BRANCH/SKILL; NAMES AND UTILIZATION OF GRADUATES.

-- -- TRAINING IN BELGIUM, FRANCE OR ZAIRE: SCOPE OF TRAINING AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL/BRANCH/CONFIDENTIAL

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SKILL; NAMES AND UTILIZATION OF GRADUATES.

-- -- NUMBERS, LOCATIONS, AND SPECIFIC MISSIONS OF BELGIAN/FRENCH MILITARY OR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN ZAIRE.

-- B. AREAS IN WHICH ZAIRE IS PUSHING FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.

-- C. AREAS IN WHICH BLEUS AND GRAS FEEL THERE ARE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASES IN THEIR COUNTRY'S SUPPORT ABOVE CURRENT LEVELS.

-- D. POSSIBILITIES FOR TAILORING OF ONGOING BELGIAN OR FRENCH TRAINING PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT MANPOWER NEEDS OF OUR GROUND FORCE UPGRADE PACKAGE AND VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE LONG TERM MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ARMOR SCHOOL DISCUSSED IN PARA 9A, REF B.

-- E. AREAS IN WHICH BLEUS AND GRAS CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO DO MORE IF THEY COULD BE SO PERSUADED.

-- F. EXISTENCE OF STUDIES, SURVEYS, OR DATA ON MANPOWER, TRAINING, INFRASTRUCTURE, OR LOGISTICS THAT COULD BE USED BY OUR PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY TEAM, THEREBY REDUCING COSTS OF THE SURVEY. ASSUMING THAT THE US EQUIPPED UNIT IS TO BE TRAINED AND STATIONED IN THE SHABA REGION, INFORMATION ON ALL MILITARY FACILITIES THERE IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

-- G. EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED IN THE TRAINING OF ZAIRIANS. (BOTH THE BELGIANS AND FRENCH IN RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE STATE/DOD TEAM UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING TO ANY PROGRAM UNDERTAKEN AND THE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES THAT THEY HAD EXPERIENCED IN THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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REGARD WITH ZAIRIANS.)

-- H. FEEDBACK FROM PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S VISITS THIS MONTH TO BRUSSELS AND PARIS RE MILITARY AID.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE ROCKWELL II REPORT WITH THE BELGIANS AND FRENCH, CHIEF ZAMISH SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT AT THIS TIME THE USG IS ONLY OFFERING THE GROUND FORCE, UPGRADE PACKAGE WITH ADDITION OF 10 M60A1 TANKS AND 1 M88 TANK RETRIEVER WITHIN 24 MONTH PERIOD.

- HE SHOULD CAVAEET THAT ANY FURTHER ACTION ON THE LONG TERM FORCE MODERNIZATION PLAN IS TIED TO THE RESULTS OF THE PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY PLUS OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS POLICIES OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, SPECIFIC GOZ REQUESTS AND THE GROUND SECURITY SITUATION.

4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE COORDINATION BY ZAMISH, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF EMBASSY WOULD TOUCH BASE WITH THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS TO COMPARE THEIR RESPECTIVE UNDERSTANDINGS OF WHAT TRANSPIRED IN BRUSSELS AND PARIS AND TEST THE SIGNALS THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM THERE. THIS TOP-LEVEL COORDINATION WILL HELP INSURE THAT THE MULTI-NATIONAL DIRECTION OF THIS EFFORT IS MAINTAINED SO THAT THEIR MILITARY MISSIONS WILL COOPERATE AND CONSULT WITH US. AS INDICATED IN REFS A AND B, KNOWLEDGE AND CONCERN REGARDING THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TEND TO BE FOCUSED ON THEIR KINSHASA MILITARY MISSIONS. BY WORKING CLOSELY WITH EMBASSIES, IT MAY EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO STIMULATE PROPOSALS BACK TO THE

BELGIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING
IN AREAS WHERE THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO ALLOCATE FUNDS,
E.G., KAMINA, PROVISION OF SMALL NAVAL AIRCRAFT, ETC.

5. THIS IS A JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE. A SEPTTEL
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WILL REVIEW OVER-ALL STATUS OF OUR PROGRAM.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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